

IN THE CLAIMS

1.-21. (Cancelled)

22. (Original) An aqueous adhesive composition comprising:

- (a) from about 5 to about 75 weight % of an aqueous suspension of polymeric acrylate microspheres;
- (b) from about 25 to about 95 weight % of an aqueous emulsion of crosslinked acrylate polymer; and optionally,
- (c) a functionally effective amount of one or more auxiliary ingredients for modifying coating or enhancing adhesive performance properties;

wherein the weight ratio, on a solids basis, of microspheres to crosslinked acrylate polymer is about 0.025:1 to about 1.9:1, and;

wherein said polymeric acrylate microspheres are solid, and are produced by the process comprising: A) contacting a polymerizable aqueous emulsion of at least one non-ionic monomer of an alkyl acrylate or alkyl methacrylate ester of a non-tertiary alcohol and at least one ionic monomer copolymerizable with said non-ionic monomer and at least one non-free radically polymerizable acid; and B) polymerizing the emulsion to form an aqueous suspension of said solid polymeric pressure sensitive adhesive microspheres; wherein said non-free radically polymerizable acid is contacted with said polymerizable aqueous emulsion prior to achieving about 95% conversion of said non-ionic monomer.

23. (Cancelled).

24. (Original) The composition of claims 22, having dry film peel value of about 0.2 to about 2.5 pounds per inch peel force on stainless steel with adhesive failure mode.

25.-26. (Cancelled).

27. (Original) An article comprising a face stock material having coated thereon a removable or repositionable, pressure sensitive adhesive composition comprising: (a) solid polymeric acrylate microspheres, (b) crosslinked acrylate polymer, and, optionally, (c) a functionally effective amount of one or more auxiliary ingredients for modifying coating or enhancing adhesive performance properties; wherein the weight ratio of microspheres to crosslinked acrylate polymer is about 0.025:1 to about 1.9:1, and wherein said solid polymeric acrylate microspheres are produced by the process comprising: A) contacting a polymerizable aqueous emulsion of at least one non-ionic monomer of an alkyl acrylate or alkyl methacrylate ester of a non-tertiary alcohol and at least one ionic monomer copolymerizable with said non-ionic monomer and at least one non-free radically polymerizable acid; and B) polymerizing the emulsion to form an aqueous suspension of said solid polymeric pressure sensitive adhesive microspheres; wherein said non-free radically polymerizable acid is contacted with said polymerizable aqueous emulsion prior to achieving about 95% conversion of said non-ionic monomer.

28. (Cancelled).

29. (Original) The article of claim 27 having dry film peel value of about 0.2 to about 2.5 pounds per inch peel force on stainless steel with adhesive failure mode.

30.-31. (Cancelled).